

**Remarks by The Honorable Frederick Gregory  
NASA Deputy Administrator  
World Safety Congress  
Orlando, Florida  
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Thank you Alan (Alan McMillan, President National Safety Council) for that very gracious introduction, and for the wonderful musical tribute to our space program.

I am honored that you have invited me to address this distinguished gathering of safety and health experts from over 50 nations, this being the first such gathering on U.S. soil.

Today, I want to talk to you about how NASA, the world's leading research and exploration agency, is approaching the issue of safety in the most unique of workplaces—the high performance space vehicles that we launch into the heavens some 60 miles east of here at the Kennedy Space Center.

I hope that from NASA's experience in seeking to improve our overall approach to mission safety in the aftermath of the tragic Space Shuttle Columbia accident, all of you may gain some insights into how you can improve safety in your work environments.

But first, I would like to say a couple things about a subject that is very much on our minds these days, the devastation so many of our people suffered as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

For those of you who have personally experienced this natural disaster, my heart goes out to you. The same applies to those who experienced the Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami late last year.

We at NASA are gratified that our space observation capabilities has proved useful in efforts to deal with both natural disasters.

In the case of Hurricane Katrina and other tropical storms, as a result of relatively new NASA satellites and instruments, our colleagues at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are now able to predict the formation of tropical storms nine days out instead of seven days. They are also able to predict a storm's landfall within a 650 kilometer area instead of 1300.

Also, just after Katrina struck, NASA lent a research aircraft to rescue and recovery operations that provided detailed high resolution observations of the disaster area. This information helped provide an accurate assessment of damage to communities and the coastal environment.

We performed a similar role following the earthquake and tsunami last year, providing the U.S. Navy with data to help them safely bring ships involved in the relief effort into ports damaged by debris and sediments.

Additionally, the information provided by our satellites is being used to investigate the event and document the devastation caused by the Tsunami. This research will aid in the future development of tsunami and earthquake predictive models and warning systems.

Of course, we pay attention to disasters like these because they are extraordinary events that don't happen every day. At this conference I know there will be much productive dialogue about improving health and safety in the day-to-day work environment.

While NASA's high-technology work environment is by its very nature quite different from the store down the street, I think the lessons we have learned from our recent experience may have broader applicability to this audience.

For one thing, all of us, when we wake up in the morning, accept some degree of risk. So we all have this in common, although the risks we are In NASA's case, for those of us who have had the privileged to fly into outer space,